

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 11, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BENJAMIN made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 41.]

*The Committee on Private Land Claims, to whom was referred Senate bill No. 41, to affirm certain entries of land in the State of Louisiana, report:*

That certain entries, amounting in all to somewhat more than three hundred and seventy-seven acres of land, were made in the southwestern land district of Louisiana in the year 1844, and the land paid for, and it has since remained in possession of the purchasers, and is under cultivation. On applying for patents, however, it was ascertained that the land so entered was included in a live-oak reservation made by the President. The entries were therefore unlawful. But it appears from the evidence contained in the annexed affidavits, made part of this report, that the live-oak has since been removed from the land by government contractors, so that there remains no reason why the entries shall not now be affirmed. The committee, therefore, recommend the passage of the bill confirming said entries.

OPELOUSAS, Louisiana:

Preëmption act, 1834.—Lot No. 1, of section 6, lots 1 and 2, of section 5, township 11 south, of range 15 east. Containing 154.40 acres, entered by John Dawson, 1843. Document 26, per certificate No. 4115.

Preëmption act, 1834.—Lots 3, 4, and 5, of section 5, lots 2, 3, 4, and 5, of section 6, township 11 south, of range 15 east. Containing 155.71 acres, entered by John D. Alston. Per certificate No. 4114.

Preëmption act, 1841.—Fractional section 32, fractional section 31, township 14 south, of range 11 east. Containing 68.14 acres, entered by Joseph T. Hawkins, August 7, 1844. Per certificate No. 4184.

The foregoing embrace parts of Cypress lake, which appears to have been reserved by order of the President, 29th February, 1844, for live-oak.

The certificates of purchase would appear to be on file in the pre-emption bureau.

B. T. REILLY.

JANUARY 23, 1860.

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GENERAL LAND OFFICE, *January 24, 1860.*

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith Senate bill No. 41, to confirm the entries of certain lands in the southwestern district of Louisiana, to wit: Lots 1 and 2 of section 5, and lot 1 of section 6, township 15 south, range 11 east. Lots 2, 3, 4, and 5, of section 5, and lots 3, 4, and 5 of section 5, township, 15 south, range 11 east, and fractional southwest quarter of section 32 and fractional section 31, township 14 south, range 11 east.

For your information I have to state that the records of this office show that the lands above specified were reserved, by order of the President, dated February 29, 1844, for live-oak purposes, and are still reserved.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. A. SMITH,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. J. P. BENJAMIN,

*Chairman Committee Private Land Claims, U. S. Senate.*

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I certify that in January, of the year 1840, I surveyed a tract of land called Cyprus Island, comprising fractional sections Nos. 31 and 32 of township 14 south, of range 11 east, and fractional sections Nos. 5 and 6, of township 15 south, of range 11 east, in the southwestern district of Louisiana, said land consisting principally of cyprus swamp, interspersed with ridges of higher land, from which at the above-mentioned time the live-oak timber had been mostly cut.

A. L. FIELDS.

FRANKLIN, ST. MARY, LOUISIANA, *May 5, 1860.*

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DISTRICT OF TECHE, *Port of Franklin:*

I hereby certify that the live-oak timber heretofore growing on sections 5 and 6 of township 15 south of range 11 east, and on sections 32 and 31 of township 14 south of range 11 east, has been long since cut and removed from said lands lying in the southwestern district of Louisiana, or at least all of said timber that could be used for any building purpose, for even the smallest vessels or boats.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at the custom-house at Franklin, Louisiana, this [L. s.] 10th day of May, A. D. 1860.

R. W. McMILLAN,  
*Collector.*

We certify that the live-oak timber existing on the land preempted by John Dawson, John D. Alston, and Joseph T. Hawkins, lying in the southwestern land district of Louisiana, (and being fractional sections Nos. 5 and 6, of township No. 15, south of range 11 east, and fractional southwest quarter of section 32, and fractional section No. 31, familiarly known as Cypress Island, has been removed many years since by live-oak contractors for the government.

THOMAS W. COOK,  
G. B. SHEPHERD.

Sworn to, and subscribed before me, this 16th May, 1860.

L. R. CURTIS,  
*Justice of the Peace.*

I fully concur in the statements of the foregoing certificate, this 16th May, 1860.

L. R. CURTIS,  
*Justice of the Peace.*

